

Miscellanea

Symposium

Romanian participation at the 18th Joint Geomorphological Meeting Chambery, France, June 27th –29th, 2016

JGM – Joint Geomorphological Meeting is an international conference, in the event list of the IAG (International Association of Geomorphologists) and organized every two years by one member of the joint group of geomorphological associations from France (Groupe Français de Géomorphologie), Italy (Associazione Italiana di Geografia Fisica e Geomorfologia), Belgium (Belgian Association of Geomorphologists), Greece (Hellenic Committee of Geomorphologists), Romania (Asociația Geomorfologilor din România) and for the first time, Switzerland (Société Suisse de Géomorphologie).

After the conference of Liège, Belgium (June 2014), the 18th edition of the JGM was organized by the French geomorphological community (Groupe Français de Géomorphologie), at Chambery – department of Savoie - in the Northern French Alps. The venue was the University of Savoie-Mont Blanc with the CNRS-EDYTEM laboratory (Environnement – Dynamiques – Territoires – Montagne), wellknown as an important centre for the research of the mountain environmental dynamics.

JGM was a part of a geomorphological event week (June 27th - July 1st, 2016), organized at the University of Savoie-Mont Blanc in Chambery, followed by the conference of young geomorphologists (Journées des Jeunes Géomorphologues) and a special conference focused on the periglacial phenomena (Journée de l'Association Française du Périglaciaire, with a special session dedicated to prof. Albert Pissart, one

of the pioneers in this field of geomorphologic research).

This edition was focused on erosion and sedimentation phenomena (Source to sink, from erosion to sedimentary archives), but the papers and posters followed a diversity of derived topics, from dating of sediment deposits, land erosion, geomorphic mapping and modelling, to applied geomorphology issues in different environments, from temperate to tropical and glacial-periglacial, and of course in tectonic active mountain regions (Alps, Pyrenees, Carpathians, Balkans, Himalaya).

Five invited lectures were from France (E. Cossart – modelling of sediment fluxes in mountain catchments), Italy (M. Gugliemini – Italian rock glaciers as archives in paleoclimatic studies and landscape evolution), Greece (S. Pechlivanidou – source to sink in tectonically active areas catchments on rift areas), Switzerland (C. Scapozza – sediment transfer in Southern Alps during and after the last glaciation in Ticino, Southern Switzerland) and Belgium (V. Vanacker – antropogenic disturbances in morphodynamics in Western Mediterranean in the context of selected cultural landscapes).

Seven lectures followed these presentation. They were selected on the criteria of relevance to the conference thematic and had different themes of approach: soil erosion and lake sedimentary archives (M. Bajard *et al.*), GIS-based geomorphic mapping in Italian Western Alps (M. Giardino *et al.*),

reconstruction of flash flood events in Rwenzori Mountains, Uganda (L. Jacobs *et al.*), the periglacial morphodynamics of permafrost affected walls in Mont Blanc Massif under the pressure of summer heat waves (L. Ravanel *et al.*), the analysis of suspended sediment fluxes in Meuse and Scheldt Rivers, Belgium (J. Van Campenhout *et al.*). The Romanian group of geomorphologists was represented by the oral presentation of Bogdan Olariu in collaboration with Bogdan Mihai and Ionuț Săvulescu, from the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, Department of Geomorphology-Pedology-Geomatics (Human-induced soil degradation in Bucegi Natural Park, Romanian Carpathians). This communication focused on the GIS modelling of the soil erosion processes on Bucegi Plateau.

Following the tradition of past events, the JGM had a special poster session (25 papers), a part of them presented by the authors in the conference room. Marina Rujoiu-Mare, PhD students from the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, had an oral presentation of the poster focused on mapping of land erosion in Subcarpathian area with the help of the recent Sentinel-2 satellite imagery (in collaboration with Bogdan Mihai and Ionuț Săvulescu).

The Romanian delegation was represented by geographers from the University of Bucharest, mainly from the Faculty of Geography-Department of Geomorphology-Pedology-Geomatics (Prof. Florina Grecu, Prof. Laura Comănescu, Prof. Alexandru Nedelea, Prof. Bogdan Mihai, Assoc. Prof. Ionuț Săvulescu, Lect. dr. Robert Dobre, Assist. Mădălina Teodor) Lect. dr. Daniela Strat from the Department of Meteorology and Hidrology and the doctoral school "Simion Mehedinți" at the Faculty of Geography (Marina Rujoiu-Mare, Bogdan Olariu – PhD students). From the University of Iași, Assoc. Prof. Dan Dumitriu also joined the conference.

There were nine papers from Romania, presented during this session, with different topics: sediment systems in Romania (D. Dumitriu *et al.*), river channel, floodplain morphodynamics and flood risk (F. Grecu *et al.*, L. Comănescu *et al.*, and A. Nedelea *et al.*), slope morphodynamics and transport infrastructure projects (R. Dobre *et al.*), snow regimes and skislopes development in Romanian Carpathians (L. Ilie *et al.*, M. Teodor *et al.*).

Two days of fieldtrips, organized by our French colleagues followed the scientific programme. These were targeted on the essential geomorphic issues from the Northern French Alps, in the context of postglacial, Holocene and present-day morphodynamic evolution. The first trip focused on Bauges prealpine Massif – 2217 m altitude, East of Chambéry (karst landscapes, cave morphology and evolution, glacial and periglacial morphodynamics) and the second focused on the high alpine morphodynamics under glacial and periglacial regimes (Mont Blanc Massif – 4810 m with Chamonix glacial Valley and Mer de Glace Glacier with the severe glacial retreat and the active morphodynamics of granite rock slopes around the highest peaks – a stop to Aiguille du Midi, 3842 m).

The conference was a real successful event, a new occasion for scientific exchanges between geomorphologists and a possible opening of new research projects in the future. Our colleagues from the EDYTEM laboratory (L. Astrade, P. Deline, S. Jaillet, L. Ravanel, F. Hobléa) organized a high-level scientific meeting, focused on the latest research issues in geomorphology.

(Mihai BOGDAN, Faculty of Geography, University of Bucharest, Romania
November 2016)

Symposium

Workshop on Urban Geomorphological Heritage Rome, Italy, October 27-29, 2016

The conference Workshop on Urban Geomorphological Heritage held in Rome, Italy,

between October 27-29, 2016 under the auspices of the International Association of Geomorphologists –

IAG and the Geomorphosites Working Group, and the Italian Association of Physical Geography and Geomorphology (AIGEO) and its partners (ProGEO, G&T associations).

It was an exploratory scientific event, with an innovative theme, organized by the geomorphologists from the University of Rome – La Sapienza, the host institution, represented by dr. Alessia Pica, in collaboration with the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Italy) – represented by dr. Paola Coratza, together with the University of Lausanne (Switzerland), Institute of Geography and Sustainability, whose director, professor Emmanuel Reynard had the idea of the workshop.

The topics of the conference were: the geomorphological analysis in urban environment, the methodologies for the assessment and mapping of urban geomorphosites, the urban geotourism, the interpretation and the popularization of urban geomorphosites, the relationship between cultural and geomorphological heritage in cities, the conservation of geoheritage and the urban growth, the geoheritage and the urban planning.

The programme included three different activities. The first day was focused on an intensive course in urban heritage mapping and analysis

(Methods for urban geomorphic mapping and geoheritage analysis). The second day was the scientific session, while the third one was the fieldtrip in Rome historical core, focused on urban geoheritage.

The scientific session gathered together about one hundred researchers from Europe (Italy, France, Switzerland, Portugal, Poland, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovenia) and Northern Africa (Morocco), specialized in geomorphology and other sciences like geology, archeology, history and urban planning. After the opening ceremony (speeches from G. Scarascia Mugnozza, M. Soldati, P. Coratza and P. Fredi) there were 30 oral presentations and posters, organized in four topics: a plenary session focused on the achievements in this research topic (presentations by E. Reynard, D. Spizzichino, C. Giusti, M. Del Monte and P. Migoń), anthropic geomorphological evolution (P. Brandolini, B. Mihai, C. Guerra, P. Mozzi and B. Commentale), urban geomorphosites (C. Portal, F. Badiali, J. Tičar, L. Meelli and Z. Zwolinski) and urban geotourism (L. Grangier, M. Górka-Zabielska, M.L. Rodrigues and L. Kubalíkova). There were also displayed 12 posters with the above mentioned topics.



Fieldtrip at the first stop at Circus Maximus and the explanation on valley morphology transformation by Dr. M. Del Monte (Photo B. Mihai).

Fieldtrip was focused on the geomorphological heritage of the city of Rome and was coordinated and guided by Dr. M. Del Monte and Dr. Alessia Pica, from the host University of La Sapienza Roma 1. It was a real experience to discover the old urban sites of the seven hills of Rome (Septimontium). Four of them were visited, from Circus Maximus (close to Palatino Hill) to the Aventino hill and Tiberine Island on Tiber River. The excellent walking tour used a documented geomorphic map and other representation in order to understand the closer relationship between the antique and the newer urban structure of the city with the geological and geomorphological background. A new mobile application on the geoheritage of Rome was also introduced by the colleagues.

From Romania, there was an oral presentation by dr. Bogdan Mihai in collaboration with dr. Constantin Nistor from University of Bucharest, in partnership with Liviu Toma and Irina Cârlan, PhD students at the same institution and GIS analysts at GISBox Srl company (Photogrammetric modelling for medieval site mapping. A case study from Curtea

de Argeş, Romania). The colleagues from the University of Oradea (dr. D. Ilieş), joined another oral presentation in partnership with geomorphologists from the University of Modena and Regio Emilia (F. Badiali, D. Castaldini), focused on the geoheritage in Oradea town. A poster focused on geotourism in Bucharest was also displayed (L. Comănescu and A. Nedelea, University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography).

In conclusion, the first edition of the Workshop on Urban Geomorphological Heritage, was a challenging scientific meeting that opens a new research field at the border between geomorphology and other sciences, with potential output in basic scientific approaches like geoarcheology or urban history and in applied directions like urban planning and geoheritage conservation for geotourism development.

(Mihai BOGDAN, Faculty of Geography,
University of Bucharest, Romania
November 2016)

Symposium

National Geomorphology Symposium, 32nd Edition Piatra Neamţ, 19-22 May 2016

The National Geomorphology Symposium (NGS2016), 32nd Edition, of was organized by Romanian Association of Geomorphologists (AGR) in collaboration with: *Alexandru Ioan Cuza* University of Iasi (UAIC), *Ştefan cel Mare* University of Suceava (USV) and *Stejarul* Biological Research Center from Piatra Neamţ. **NGS 2016** represented a perfect occasion for *celebrating 60 years since the founding the Stejarul Biological, Geological and Geographical Research Station*. The beginning of NGS2016 manifestations was marked by the touching speech of *Professor Constantin Grasu* which was focused on founding and evolution of *Stejarul* Research Station as an incursion in time on "brightness and twilight of an institution".

The symposium took place during 4 days. There have been registered 6 sessions of plenary

communications (33 oral presentations and 24 posters), 3 fieldwork applications (**1**: Royal Court Visit; Ascension on Cozla Mountain – Considerations on relief evolution in the contact area between Carpathians and Sub-Carpathians and the history of Piatra human settlement) (20 May), **2**: Lake Cujejdol (21 May), **3**: Bistriţa Valley (22 May).

After the AGR Council Meeting and AGR General Assembly, on 21st of May took place the rewarding of best poster (Mădălina Ristea) and best presentation (Răzvan Popescu) from NGS2016.

The topics discussed were varied, identifying the main research directions of Romanian Geomorphologists: mountainous, coastal, fluvial geomorphology, palaeogeomorphology, hillslopes processes, dendrogeomorphology, etc.



Natural dam Cuejdel Lake, filled in 1991. In front, AGR team at 32nd Edition of GNS

Final conclusions from the end of NGS2016 showed that the Symposium from Piatra Neamț reconfirmed the strengthening of Romanian geomorphology and sync with international trends regarding especially, the rigorous working methods used and high technological applications for fieldwork research. It was reconfirmed the need to preserve the format set in 2015 for SNG: (i) plenary

communications; (ii) rigorous selection of oral presentations; (iii) discussions focused on research topics through questions and comments. Also, there were discussions about the necessity of enlarging the interest area of geomorphology by inviting experts from neighboring scientific fields and personalities from abroad.



"Blue moon" phenomenon seen from Cozla Mountain
21 May 2016

Other details regarding SNG2016 32nd Edition, can be accessed at the following address: <http://geomorfologie.ro/sng/>.